



Office of the Select Board
730 Massachusetts Ave.
Arlington, MA 02476

Town of Arlington Warrant Article Submission Instructions

This information packet describes the process of submitting warrant articles for insertion into the warrant for any Special Town Meeting. Included in this packet are the Warrant Article Submission Form and the Warrant Article Submission Checklist.

Under the Massachusetts General Laws, one hundred (100) registered voters of the Town may submit a warrant article for consideration by the Special Town Meeting of the Town. **Signatures of 100 registered voters are required to insert an article into a Special Town Meeting Warrant.** Proponents of an article are encouraged to secure a few more signatures than 100 in the event of illegible signatures or signers not qualified as registered voters. Appropriate subjects for Town Meeting action under a warrant article include: (1) adopting, repealing, or amending Town bylaws; (2) authorizing the filing of home-rule legislation; (3) accepting or revoking the acceptance of local-option legislation; (4) making and amending budgetary appropriations; (5) authorizing the acquisition or disposition of interests in land; and (6) making resolutions.

Article proponents are strongly encouraged to consult with Town Counsel as to appropriate wording of the article so that it is in proper form for consideration by Town Meeting. The phone number of the Town Counsel is (781) 316-3150 and his e-mail address is dheim@town.arlington.ma.us. If possible, please allow at least ten days before the deadline for submission of warrant articles to consult with Town Counsel.

If your article is not in the proper form, it will be amended before submission to Town Meeting. Without changing the legal effect of the article, extraneous assertions, arguments, or advocacy may be deleted. The warrant is not the appropriate place to make policy arguments in support of your article. You will have opportunities to distribute advocacy materials and proposed votes to the board that hears your article and to Town Meeting Members before final votes are taken. Working with Town Counsel ahead of time on the language of your article is the best way to ensure that it will be in proper legal form when submitted and will not require amendment to make it appropriate for the warrant.

Before going to Town Meeting, the article will be subject to review by the Finance Committee (any articles that request an appropriation of funds), the Redevelopment Board (zoning articles), or the Select Board (all other articles). The contact person for each article will be informed of the date of the hearing before the appropriate Town Board.

The article itself is only an agenda item and is not actually what is voted by Town Meeting. Town Meeting votes on a motion, which proposes a particular course of action within the general subject matter of the warrant article. In the event that the Select Board, Finance Committee, or Redevelopment Board, respectively, agree with the action proposed by the warrant article, then Town Counsel drafts a “main motion” to be included in that board’s report to Town Meeting. If the appropriate board disagrees with the warrant article submitted, it will recommend that Town Meeting take a vote of “no action” under the article. If that is the case, then the proponent will need a “substitute motion” to be brought by a Town Meeting Member in order to bring the matter before Town Meeting. Town Counsel can aid in the drafting of a substitute motion. After being recognized by the Moderator, any Town resident has the right to address the Town Meeting directly on the merits of any proposed motion.

If the matter proposes a change in the zoning bylaw, then special procedural requirements apply. Proponents should discuss this matter with Town Counsel or Director of Planning at (781) 316-3150 and (781) 316-3092, respectively.

Warrant Article Submission Checklist

- ☐ Review warrant article with Town Counsel.
- ☐ Complete Warrant Article Petition form including full contact information.
- ☐ Collect 100 or more signatures on the Petition.
- ☐ **An electronic copy of the completed warrant article petition with signatures must be emailed to amaher@town.arlington.ma.us between Monday, September 21, 2020 at 8:00a.m. and Tuesday, September 29, 2020 at 4:00p.m.**
- ☐ Those wishing to turn a paper copy of the completed warrant article petition with signatures must call 781-316-3024 to arrange.

Warrant Article Submission Form

PETITION OF ONE HUNDRED REGISTERED VOTERS FOR INSERTION OF ARTICLE INTO THE WARRANT FOR SPECIAL TOWN MEETING.

File Completed Form with the Select Board's Office no later than 4:00 P.M., Tuesday, September 29, 2020.

We, the undersigned registered voters (100 for Special) of the Town of Arlington, hereby petition the Select Board pursuant to MGL c.. 39, § 10 to insert the following article(s) into the warrant for the Special Town Meeting.

ARTICLE

Proposed Title/
Subject Matter:

To see if the Town
will vote to or take
any action related
thereto:

Requested by:

(Name one person who will be the contact individual for this article and will serve as the person for upcoming hearings regarding this article.).

Address:

Telephone:

Email:

For Office Use Only – Do Not Write In This Area

Proposed Name/Subject Matter: _____

The primary motion for this article will come from:

Select Board Redevelopment Board Finance Committee

The following groups will comment on this article:

Select Board Redevelopment Board Finance Committee

Proposed Title/Subject Matter _____

Signatures	Printed Name & Address
1. _____	_____
2. _____	_____
3. _____	_____
4. _____	_____
5. _____	_____
6. _____	_____
7. _____	_____
8. _____	_____
9. _____	_____
10. _____	_____
11. _____	_____
12. _____	_____
13. _____	_____
14. _____	_____
15. _____	_____
16. _____	_____

Proposed Title/Subject Matter _____

Signatures	Printed Name & Address
17. _____	_____
18. _____	_____
19. _____	_____
20. _____	_____
21. _____	_____
22. _____	_____
23. _____	_____
24. _____	_____
25. _____	_____
26. _____	_____
27. _____	_____
28. _____	_____
29. _____	_____
30. _____	_____
31. _____	_____
32. _____	_____
33. _____	_____

Proposed Title/Subject Matter _____

Signatures

Printed Name & Address

34. _____

35. _____

36. _____

37. _____

38. _____

39. _____

40. _____

41. _____

42. _____

43. _____

44. _____

45. _____

46. _____

47. _____

48. _____

49. _____

Proposed Title/Subject Matter _____

Signatures

Printed Name & Address

50. _____

51. _____

52. _____

53. _____

54. _____

55. _____

56. _____

57. _____

58. _____

59. _____

60. _____

61. _____

62. _____

63. _____

64. _____

65. _____

Proposed Title/Subject Matter _____

Signatures	Printed Name & Address
66. _____	_____
67. _____	_____
68. _____	_____
69. _____	_____
70. _____	_____
71. _____	_____
72. _____	_____
73. _____	_____
74. _____	_____
75. _____	_____
76. _____	_____
77. _____	_____
78. _____	_____
79. _____	_____
80. _____	_____
81. _____	_____

Proposed Title/Subject Matter _____

Signatures	Printed Name & Address
82. _____	_____
83. _____	_____
84. _____	_____
85. _____	_____
86. _____	_____
87. _____	_____
88. _____	_____
89. _____	_____
90. _____	_____
91. _____	_____
92. _____	_____
93. _____	_____
94. _____	_____
95. _____	_____
96. _____	_____
97. _____	_____

Proposed Title/Subject Matter _____

Signatures

Printed Name & Address

98. _____

99. _____

100. _____

101. _____

102. _____

103. _____

104. _____

105. _____
